

Bicycle Maid of '99

As Described By Daisy May

WHEN Dewey comes home, the military edition of the bicycle girl will be ready to greet him. The advance guard has appeared upon the scene and forms the latest recruit to the patriotic pageant now in preparation for Dewey's welcome. In other words, the bicycle girl of 1899 is representative in brass buttons and mess coat. She aims to follow the vagaries of fashion as expressed in military clothing. To be consistent, navy blue becomes the favorite color for wheelwomen. Little importance is attached to the cut of her skirt so long as a dozen brass buttons climb the distance from knee to belt on either side of the narrow front pane. Skirts of the moment are comparatively shorter (really quite tantalizing), frankly revealing the ankle, but modestly covering suspected beauties. On no account are leggings considered by the up to date. In case one out of the running insists, only those of oiled leather are to be tolerated. High boots are passe; low shoes are the vogue. Heavy stockings have been discarded for silk and lisle of delicate texture. Nowadays the bicycle girl is daintily shod. The mess coat, which provides the note of distinction to her costume, is a duplicate of the Annapolis cadet's fatigue uniform. The approved novelty jacket is of course tight fitting and broad bound. The collar is cut straight and high, fastening with a tab and button. Down one side of the jacket front pointed tabs reach the length of it, on the other is a corresponding row of brass buttons. The sleeves are just large enough to be comfortable, but without any superfluous material. They come down well over the hand, to be slashed and joined by the decorative tab and button scheme. The buttons used for the most part are perfectly plain, but Old Glory or the letters "U. S. N." woven into a monogram are favored by some enthusiasts.

The alpaca hat has gone the way of the sweater. Both of them having been adopted for general wear, because to the wheelwoman nondescript. The latest hat is a combination of a small sized sombrero brim and freak sailor crown. The crown is higher on one than the other side and slants toward the front, where an eagle feather rises to great height. The brim is bound in leather, and several bands of the same encircle the crown.

Bicycling is not on the wane, but has an established place in the minds and hearts of the people.

Since the question of divided skirts versus bloomers or knickerbockers was first agitated each season develops an original idea. This year the bicycle girl goes to the breeches maker. Her trousers may be of satin or wool like unto her costume, but must be tailor made specialty. Whether they are lacy or conform to the lines of grace depends upon midday's estimate of her physical perfection. Upon this subject she usually has a fixed opinion. There have been few orders placed for any but skin tight trousers.

I like the much maligned sweater and an early the suitable garment has been made with the wheelwoman fraternity. I considered the passing of the sweater from the realm of exclusively masculine belongings into the perfumed precincts of the feminine wardrobe an event worthy of the attention of social philosophers. It was a more significant change than the appropriation of the masculine vest, which preceded it. Those measures indicated merely a desire for likeness for what the short girls call "kittiness" and the old fashioned women call "mannishness." But the passing of the sweater into feminine realm meant more than that.

In the first place, the sweater is not a subject of beauty. Not even when a sleek collar of satin ribbon and a silk laced hood have been added can it be called an attractive garment. It has no money upon defects. The boots of the fair woman and the superabundant curves of the stout woman are visible beneath its painfully truthful meshes. No seams or darts soften or shape the wearer's outlines to beauty, and when women deliberately take to their hearts a garment which is so relative in revealing defects as the sweater is the

ference is that comfort has come to mean a great deal to them. An optimist might almost be led to hope that the days of feminine sanity were numbered.

The adoption of the sweater also indicates that athletics have become a serious pursuit among women. The sweater is the athletic article of attire par excellence. Its appearance in feminine haberdasheries should be followed by a large increase in the list of feminine rowers and runners. In some of the woman's colleges, indeed, it has become an accepted part of the regulation sporting costume.

At Vassar the girls race in gray sweaters with big V's embroidered in pink on the bosoms, and at Wellesley the crews have adopted it instead of the old fashioned blouse.

Meantime women, who never walk when they have the requisite sum for a street car ride, buy sweaters with airy indifference as to the original purpose of the garments. They wear sweaters shopping and marketing. Beneath their blazers or refusers one catches glimpses of the woven silk stripes. They wear them as the men and women whose nautical experiences are confined to the ferries wear yachting caps. The redeeming feature of the affectation is that sweaters, like yachting caps, are inexpensive and comfortable, and nowadays, when the woman who does not pretend to some form of athletics is as rare as black diamonds or white crowns, the sweater is so really useful that its adoption for unathletic pursuits cannot entirely destroy its prestige.

Silver equipments for the wheel have become as essential to the aesthetic rider as is the outfit of her dressing table. If they be gifts or mementos, they are prized the more, but no cyclist of ambition is debarred from possession so long as her purse is well filled.

The latest novelties are the clips and bar handles. The oilcan, while compar-

atively new, is elaborated in readiness for summer, but can hardly be said to be entirely novel, and the belt and bag are but old friends in a new dress.

A fad for naming, the wheel exists, and every other rider you meet displays a silver shield below the handle bars upon which is etched in Roman letters his worthy steed's name.

I have recently had access to madam's notebook, from which I learn: Worth has suppressed the tight-fisted skirt and is making them no more.

Costs of black glaze silk, cloth trimmed and buckle adorned are high class garments of the chic variety. Paris is going mad over a new material called "paste" brocade, on which appear huge branches of pink roses on a pink background or irises of purple on a pale shade.

A new diaphanous cloth of silk is called crimoline, out of which the latest hats are made.

The lace entreeux is cropping up again.

Nun's veiling is the cloth of the hour. It comes in exquisite shades and exploits some peculiar color combinations—for instance, primrose with a dash of mustard in it, a cyclamen shade of pink with a strain of purple, and a misty pastel blue, which is prettiest of them all.

DAISY MAY.



THE BICYCLE GIRL OF '99.

MME. ROWLAND'S ADVICE ON THE CARE OF THE SKIN.

OUR skin is hereditary and usually thick and heavy and should be treated with great care, as it is in a measure a disease. If the pores be kept well opened and the skin clean, one need not fear unpleasant eruptions. The difficulty in the case of many women who have oily skin is that they do not take proper care of it. They use soap and water, and the pores become clogged with impurities. Redness, which usually accompanies an oily skin, is the result of the passage of the blood through the congested glands and clogging the sebaceous glands and clogging the pores with the oil.

A woman recently came to me for advice when oil of olives were so abundant that at times the oil would stand on her face in drops, and when even powder was applied it formed a paste. I suggested a mode of treatment which effected a complete cure.

Every night you must wash your face in lukewarm water, using a piece of dry soap, then rinse the face thoroughly for ten minutes with a lotion made of a pint of distilled water as hot as the face can bear, into which is not a drop of concentrated ammonia. Thoroughly rinse the face with very cold water, afterwards applying the following with a fine sponge, bathing the face and allowing it to remain during the hours of repose:

"A dram of boric acid and an ounce of potassium alum, to be dissolved in a pint of boiling distilled water, allowing it to cool before using."

The scheme of this treatment is that the hot ammonia lotion extracts the excess of oil from the skin, the cold water closes the pores of the face, and the boric acid and alum lotion is an astringent to contract the ducts and sebaceous glands.

Besides this, a warm soap bath should be taken every day, as soap dissolves oil. Plenty of exercise in the open air is most beneficial, as it has a tendency to reduce the oil ducts of the face. Care should be taken not to become overheated when exercising, as the oil is thus made to flow too freely.

The question of diet is also an important one. Even roasted or broiled meats and food should be eaten, but no pork or greasy foods of any kind. Raw oysters, boiled fish and vegetables in season are allowable. Grape fruit, oranges, grapes, stewed prunes and baked apples are all very wholesome. Fried meats, pastry and sweets should be avoided. Stimulants and narcotics like coffee affect the liver (which is generally torpid with an oily skin), and they should be abstained from.

For a skin which is not excessively oily a saturated solution of borax applied with a fine sponge is recommended.

TOPICS FOR WOMEN.

It seems that after all there is no foundation for the report that Miss Faure intends becoming a nun. It seems that she has given the idea some consideration and that for a long time she has devoted herself much to works of charity. Now, however, she has abandoned the thought of conventual life and means to devote the greater part of

her time to preparing a biographical record of her father's career as president of the republic. In the meanwhile her charities will be continued.

In nearly every street in Japanese cities is a public oven, where, for a small fee, housewives may have the dinner and supper cooked for them.

The oldest love letter in the world is

a proposal of marriage for the hand of an Egyptian princess made 2,500 years ago. It is in the form of an inscribed brick and is therefore not only the oldest but the most substantial love letter that has ever been written.

The recent visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Ireland has been productive of a vast amount of good.

One of the most beautiful jewels owned by Mrs. Astor is a bodice ornament composed entirely of rare old dia-

monds once worn by a court beauty of the ninth century. The ornament is formed by a stone of great size and brilliancy and is surrounded by countless magnificent diamonds. A deep fringe of diamonds hangs from the lower edge. Altogether this ornament deserves to be classed with the most beautiful jewels in the land.

A well known lady in society, when traveling, fastens a paper above her bed containing full particulars of what

the rasp of the plumber's file as he falls with the water pipes. Neither is love blissful in a flat where the atmosphere at all hours gives off subtle suggestions of the winds served at restaurants of the other "flat" and the pandemonium of loud voiced peddlers, howling infants and the clatter of rattetrap pianos forever salute the ear.

When a man had to choose between a flat and a boarding house, which some experienced New York boarders claim to be equivalent to the condition to which General Sherman likened war; when a boarding house was the only alternative refuge of the bachelor, he sometimes had no choice but to flee its evils into the purgatory of the flat.

Then all the new young men wanted to marry and went about their courtships in a businesslike way that kept the percentage of spinsterhood always at a low figure.

It wasn't until bachelor apartments came into vogue that a woman was obliged to mortgage her vanity by circulating the bluff about "devotion" to art or a profession. Now young men feel themselves quite independent of the cottage or the boarding house or matrimony. Any young man master of \$25 a week can be comfortable and independent in a home of his own and no thanks to any woman.

All large cities, following the example of New York, have supplied themselves with bachelor quarters. Where a staid and sober bachelor, for a modest sum, may have his own apartment, servants, and attention such as he probably would not have in such perfection or for so reasonable a sum in a home of his own. This is the reason why nowadays men affect an independence of matrimony, and instead of being the blighted, miserable beings that the old bachelors of a few years ago were pictured to be, they are irresponsible, care free individuals, the envy of benighted friends and the middle of single dames, who, after plagues of the title of bachelor, are now about to imitate bachelor living in apartment houses on a large scale.

where servants, restaurant and lodging will be at a moderate price. But up to date no similar apartment houses have been built exclusively for women.

The comfort with which artists and musicians live in their suits of studios, according to one authority, changes hands over the pretty old picture, intricately associated with the springtime in the lives of many of the workers of today. Half a dozen happy women are the middest form of the new dormitory. "Bridges," an innovation upon what is still the rage in fashionable circles.

ing of an art or profession. Some of these apartments are very expensive, and others are very cheap and democratic. A woman writer who spent two months in one of these buildings said she changed her lodgings because, although she hoped she was not exclusive and aristocratic in her tastes, she objected to the neighborly freedom of the colonies of coaches that were her fellow lodgers under that roof. Besides, she averred that the lodgers were allowed to keep pets, and the parrot of the actress across the way, the pug dog of the singer next door, the Angora cat of the artist below and the janitor's pet hen (who resided on the top floor) had a way of holding a rendezvous about the time she had captured an inspiration for her stories and were the cause of materially decreasing her income.

Things are not very much better even in the high priced studio buildings. In one of the most expensive of these in New York—where the cheapest studios are \$600 a year, little cubby holes like hall bedrooms—the careful supervision that the announcements speak of so earnestly is not in force. A good many conveniences are to be encountered. Not the least of these are experiences similar to those of a recent lodger upon the top floor, who, with her neighbor, a woman musician, was wrought to a high pitch of indignation. It was because the owner of a suit of studios at the end of the hall had a habit of giving midnight parties, and his friends, in the contemplation of his glowing sunsets or the cases of champagne that were always smuggled up stairs on the evening of the festivities, grew hilariously happy and noisy. Moreover, on the way home the departing guests would play golf with the empty milk bottles placed outside studio doors by the women lodgers for the attention of the early milkman. Complaints to the management received promises of investigation, but as the artist was a famous man, occupied expensive apartments and paid promptly he was left unmolested to his recreations, while the woman who paid small rents and objected to meeting his associates moved away.

Many women who are wage earners try to solve the problem of obtaining a home by renting a house or apartments in some good neighborhood and testing the merits of co-operative housekeeping, but women who are compelled to do a man's work in the city all day are physically or mentally unable to supplement it by doing woman's work at home in the evening.

A great many people in New York city have commented upon the discomforts which confront the single woman who wants apartments pleasant, respectable and reasonable in price. Women who are strangers in New York, arriving in the city without having previously engaged lodgings, cannot obtain them anywhere in a respectable hotel if they apply alone after 6 o'clock. Fortunately for the honor of America, New York city is the only one in America where such a disadvantageous state of affairs exists. It is a practical assertion on the part of New York hotel and lodging house keepers to every applicant for lodgings that he does not consider her a respectable person. The best restaurants, too, are closed to women after 6 o'clock provided she is unaccompanied by a man, while the most notorious woman in the city is received if so accompanied.

In New York city there are every year about 2,000 women art students. There are at least 2,000 music students. In New York and Brooklyn are about 5,000 trained nurses. Besides these there are at least 10,000 women artists, musicians, journalists, teachers, physicians and other professional women. The Young Women's Christian association receives 150 requests yearly for quarters from such women.

The Rev. Henry Van Dyke, the Rev. David H. Greer, Rev. W. S. Baldwin and Dr. Parkhurst all endorse the plan of building an apartment house especially for women. The Women's Christian association requires a capital of \$400,000 to put up the building, after which it is estimated that it can be run at an annual expenditure of \$175,000, accommodating 200 guests. The hotel or apartment building will not only give board and lodging to women, but will rent apartments without board. The minimum cost for lodging, it is thought, it is expected, will be somewhere near \$1 a week. The location of the building is being acquired by subscription, shares selling for \$100 each. John D. Rockefeller has subscribed for \$25,000 and other prominent persons in proportion. Any woman who subscribes for \$100 or more will receive a certificate of honor. It is hoped that the hotel will pay a reasonable dividend for the income from the hotel is expected to be about \$25,000 a year.

It was hoped that work could begin this spring, but the subscription has been slower than was expected. The committee in charge of the preliminary business of the Women's hotel consists of Herbert B. Turner, Charles F. Cox, Charles S. Fairchild and J. Kennedy. The Women's advisory committee includes: Miss Grace Loomis, Miss Virginia Potter, Mrs. Richard T. Tamm, Mrs. W. W. Newell and Mrs. Lillian W. Ward.

MADGE POTTER.

Betting on croquet is declared to be the latest "snooty" diversion among English society women. Large sums, according to one authority, change hands over the pretty old picture, intricately associated with the springtime in the lives of many of the workers of today. Half a dozen happy women are the middest form of the new dormitory. "Bridges," an innovation upon what is still the rage in fashionable circles.

THE ORIGIN OF THIMBLES.

The first thimble seen in England was made in London less than 200 years ago by a metal worker named John Lofting. He acquired a large fortune and great fame in the manufacture of the new accessory to the needle worker's art. The implement was at first called a thumb nail, and was worn on the thumb. Lofting's thimbles were made of either iron or brass, and specimens of them are extant, many of which are preserved as heirlooms. Gold, silver, iron, ivory, steel, pearl, celluloid and sometimes glass are utilized in making thimbles nowadays.

In China the ladies of high class use very dainty thimbles. Some are carved from enormous pearls, with bands of fine gold, on which are engraved all sorts of fantastic things, the etchings of which serve for catching the needle, as the holes of the outside "tartarian thimbles" do. The thimble always has a mother of pearl case. With the thimble the Chinese lady always has a delicate pair of scissors of the finest steel, in a sheath of pearl, and a pearl needle case. The articles are all incased in a case, a quaintly quaint case of the purest mother of pearl.

The manufacture of thimbles is simple enough. Dies of the different sizes are used, into which the metal, whether gold, silver or steel, is pressed. The thimbles, after being finished and polished, are then ready for use. Celluloid is molded. The best thimbles are said to be made in France.

The queen of Siam has a thimble which was a present from her royal husband. It is made of gold, in the form of a lotus bud—the lotus being the royal flower—and is thickly studded with diamonds so arranged as to form her name and the date of her marriage. This gift was equal to an order that the ladies of Siam should use thimbles, and they have used them ever since.

FOURTY COURT DRESSMAKERS.

Twelve dressmakers are kept constantly employed in the empress of Germany's tailoring department, as it is called, under the supervision of a lady of the court. The staff is increased to the number of 40 at certain seasons—when court festivities are going on or the empress is making preparations for a journey. At court festivals her majesty appears decked in brilliant wardrobe millions. Only a comparatively small portion of these precious jewels are her own property. The largest and most valuable portion are loaned by the Prussian court treasury, and are returned in the event of her majesty becoming a widow or on her death.

On the death of the venerable Empress Augusta the present empress inherited by will several magnificent sets of pearls and diamonds to her pleasure. The late empress would dispose otherwise of her jewels. Empress Augusta Victoria's collection of furs, several of which were given her by her imperial spouse, is of great value. The tan of black woodcock feathers is the one she prizes most highly, as it is made from the feathers of birds shot by his majesty himself.

MARRIAGEABLE AGES.

In Germany the man must be at least 15 years of age.

In Portugal a boy of 14 is considered marriageable and a woman, of 12.

In Greece the man must have been at least 14 summers and the woman 12.

In France the man must be 18 and the woman 16; in Belgium, the same ages.

In Spain the intended husband must have passed his fourteenth year and the woman her twelfth.

In Switzerland men from the age of 14 and women from the age of 12 are allowed to marry.

In Austria a "man" and a "woman" are supposed to be capable of conducting a home of their own at the age of 15.

In Turkey any youth and maiden who can walk properly and can understand the necessary religious service are allowed to be united for life.

In Hungary, for Roman Catholics, the man must be 14 years old and the woman 12; for Protestants, the man must be 18 and the woman 16.

In Russia and Saxony they are a little more sensible, and a youth must refrain from entering into matrimony till he can count 18 years, and the woman till she can count 16.

SERIOUS FRIENDSHIP.

Serious friendship cannot be enjoyed except by persons of character. These are the types of light and frivolous, whose friends from whom it fancy, or drift into the relation from chance proximity, or who make acquaintance or acquaintance, forgetting the other duties of life in a swift transport of feeling, must however remain ignorant of the depth of the solemnity and the sacredness of which friendship is capable.

Brownson says: "That friendship is a duty to which all men are bound, because we have made them a texture of wine and dreams instead of the tough fiber of the human heart. The bond of friendship is voluntary and eternal, and it is with the law of nature and of morals. But we have aimed at a swift and petty benefit in such a sudden acquaintance. We search at the silver fruit in the whole garden of fruit, which many summers and many winters must ripen. We seek our friend not necessarily with a passion which would appropriate him to ourselves."

A ROYAL LAUNDRESS.

A story is told of the Princess Louise's visit to the Bermudas. Three islands belong to Great Britain. The laundress deputed to give her a receipt, and both rich and poor made ready to do her bidding.

One day she was out sketching, for, like the queen and the rest of the daughters, she is fond of sketching. She was (nearly) as called at a cottage door for water. The good woman, who was very busy and refused to go for the water, did of course did not know who the princess was, she was busy ironing. She was ironing a shirt for her husband, who was at the reception of the queen's daughter, and was told that she must not leave that to get water for a lady.

"If you will get me the water," said the princess, "I will finish ironing the shirt while you are gone."

As the princess opened the door while the woman fetched the water.

of unmarried men by a majority of over 50,000.

When a Philippine lady of better class goes married, she sometimes wears an heirloom dress of antique of native manufacture that reaches in value up into high figures. It takes months to make a beautiful dress in the Philippines. In Japan, however, like other countries, hands at such morning and evening gowns.

The number of unmarried women in England and Wales exceeds the number